

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 3

Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bonta, Campos, Chesbro, Dickinson, Fong, Garcia, Roger Hernández, Levine, Medina, Muratsuchi, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Rendon, Ting, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

(Coauthors: Senators Correa, De León, Lieu, Padilla, and Yee)

December 3, 2012

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 3—Relative to immigration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 3, as amended, Alejo. Immigration.

This measure would specify tenets for repairing the nation's ~~broken~~ immigration system, and would urge Congress and the President of the United States to take a humane and just approach to improving the nation's immigration system using those tenets.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The United States of America is a nation of values,
2 founded on the principles that all men and women are created
3 equal, and the promise of freedom for all; and

4 WHEREAS, We are a nation of immigrants, who believe in the
5 promise of freedom and opportunity; and

6 WHEREAS, The current immigration system is broken,
7 antiquated, and not meeting the challenges of the 21st century. It

1 separates families, including same-sex couples and *couple* families,
2 and creates long backlogs for families who are seeking
3 reunification. Further, it *reunification*, and neglects the hard work
4 and financial contributions immigrants make to our country; and

5 WHEREAS, Since 2008, more than 1.6 million immigrants have
6 been deported, and one in every 10 American children faces the
7 threat of the deportation of a parent; and

8 WHEREAS, It is estimated that about 11 million undocumented
9 immigrants are in the United States, and California has the largest
10 population of immigrants, both legal and undocumented; and

11 WHEREAS, Immigrants and their children constitute nearly
12 one-half of California's population and live and work in all 58
13 counties, most notably in the San Diego, Central Valley, Los
14 Angeles, and greater San Francisco areas; and

15 WHEREAS, Approximately 77 percent of undocumented
16 immigrants who reside in California live with family members
17 who are legal United States residents and citizens; and

18 WHEREAS, One in 10 workers in California is an
19 undocumented immigrant, and immigrants are a vibrant,
20 productive, and vital part of the state's growing economy; and

21 WHEREAS, Immigrants are essential in keeping the American
22 economy strong; from technology programmers in the Silicon
23 Valley to restaurant owners and workers, immigrants are filling
24 an intrinsic need in the labor force; and

25 WHEREAS, Agricultural workers have been performing very
26 important and difficult work to maintain America's food supply,
27 and have a role of ensuring that Americans have safe and secure
28 agricultural products to sell and consume; and

29 WHEREAS, Students should not be punished for their
30 immigration status but instead should be given recognition for
31 their sacrifice, hard work, and determination; and

32 WHEREAS, The United States can do a better job of attracting
33 and keeping the world's best and brightest. A comprehensive
34 immigration reform should also grant immigrants who have
35 received a Ph.D. or master's degree in science, technology,
36 engineering, or mathematics from an American university the
37 opportunity to invest in and contribute to this great nation. For the
38 future of our economy, it makes no sense to educate the world's
39 future innovators and entrepreneurs only to ultimately force them

1 to leave our country at the moment they are most able to contribute
2 to our economy; and

3 WHEREAS, Modernizing our antiquated and dysfunctional
4 immigration system will uphold our nation’s basic values of
5 fairness, equality, as well as opportunity, and

6 WHEREAS, A comprehensive, as well as compassionate,
7 approach to solve our broken immigration system should be one
8 that works for all communities and families in America; and

9 WHEREAS, A just immigration reform must ensure that it
10 reflects one of our basic values—that we all are created equal—thus
11 immigration reform must recognize each immigrant’s full
12 humanity; and

13 *WHEREAS, In order to enhance federal matching resources to*
14 *cover all eligible residents in our state, the federal government*
15 *should include participation of new Americans in programs derived*
16 *from the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and*
17 *should allow new Americans to participate in publicly funded*
18 *programs to expedite their integration into our state; and*

19 WHEREAS, A proposal must be comprised of the following
20 tenets that achieve all of the following: (1) include a direct road
21 map to full citizenship that is inalienable, affordable, and inclusive
22 for the 11 million immigrants who are currently living in the
23 shadows; (2) reform of immigration enforcement programs that
24 separate families and ensures that family unification systems are
25 strengthened; (3) upgrade the current visa programs in order to
26 have a legal workforce and a system that better enforces labor
27 protections; and (4) uphold due process as well as the inherent
28 rights of all immigrants; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved, by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
30 *California, jointly, That the Legislature urges the President and*
31 *the Congress of the United States to take a humane and just*
32 *approach to solving our nation’s broken immigration system; and*
33 *be it further*

34 *Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies*
35 *of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the*
36 *United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to*
37 *the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and*
38 *Representative from California in the Congress of the United*

- 1 States, to the Governor of California, and to the author of this
- 2 resolution.

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